

2 Probes Set in Student Deaths

By Rafael Bermudez

BATON ROUGE, La., Nov. 26 (UPI)—A special state commission opens a closed-door investigation Monday into the shooting deaths of two black students at the Baton Rouge campus of Southern University.

A "black people's committee of inquiry" was scheduled to start its own probe.

Gov. Edwin Edwards, who closed the Baton Rouge campus until Jan. 3 after the Nov. 16 shootings, ordered extra security for Southern's New Orleans branch, which reopens Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Students at the New Orleans campus had been demonstrating for several weeks be-

fore the Nov. 16 confrontation between police and students at Baton Rouge in which Leonard D. Brown and Denver A. Smith, both 20, were killed outside the university administration building.

Both investigative groups have the same announced goal—of delving into the causes of the student uprisings and placing blame for the two deaths.

The state's official Biracial Commission of Inquiry will be headed by State Attorney General William Guste and has equal numbers of white and black members, including two black students from the New Orleans campus.

The independent black panel of 14 includes Georgia State Rep. Julian Bond, Owusa Saduki, president of

Malcolm X University at Greensboro, N.C., and two Berkeley, Calif., city councilmen.

Guste said he decided to conduct the state investigation in secrecy "because of the nature of the investigation and the possibility that criminal charges may be filed."

The black people's committee will hold open sessions for its hearings.

"There are blacks across the country who have a real concern as to actually what the facts are," said D'Army Bailey, one of the Berkeley councilmen.

"So I think there is a need for the black community to take a particular look at the situation and to make some report on our findings."

A memorial service for the two slain students drew 400 people to the steps of the state capitol today, the Associated Press reported.